NEWSLETTER OF THE MAHARASHTRA EX-SERVICES LEAGUE

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NEWSLETTER NO.3. MARCH, 1974.

Hutment 'J', Azad Maidan,
Opp. Cama Hospital,
Mahapalika Marg,
Bombay 400 001.

Dear Friends:

GOVERNMENT AND THE LEAGUE:

1. Another year has come and gone, and now 1974 is upon us. The Maharashtra Branch of the All India Ex-Services League has completed its 5th year, and after a long uphill task is now in a position to do more for our Ex-servicemen. The Government of Maharashtra is beginning to take interest in us, the Official State Representative Body of Ex-soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, but we are still trying to get more recognition and assistance than at present. The State must realize that unless the Civil Administrative Authorities take special care of retired Servicemen, they will get disgruntled and this will seriously affect the calibre of good recruits coming to the Armed Forces. If young men see how their retired relatives from the Forces are neglected by the Civil Government Authorities, they would rather look for jobs as civilians on a higher salary, than become fighting soldiers on a lower salary. The fine standard our fighting Forces will fall, and the safety of our Country will be endangered. The welfare of Ex-Servicemen is, therefore, a most important responsibility of all Statement Governments, and the first consideration of every Minister.

CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND THE EX-SERVICEMEN:

2. As you are all aware, there is much unrest in our Country due to food shortages, unemployment and other reasons. As a result, there are almost daily morchas, gheraos, bandhs and other demonstrations. The disciplined Ex-serviceman who finds

himself a civilian after a life ruled by discipline, is confused in these circumstances and looks for guidance. Ex-servicemen should try to avoid taking part in all demonstrations against -- Authority. But sometimes this is not possible due to circumstances beyond their control. In such cases, each Ex-serviceman will have to make his own judgement in this matter, but let him be guided by the following important principles:-

i) All demonstrations must be peaceful.
ii) Violence is wrong at all times.
iii) There should be no interference with other citizens.
iv) Destruction of property, especially Government property, is wrong and criminal.
v) Every abstention from work by strikes, gheraos, bandhs etc means less production for nation.

3. If every Ex-serviceman tries to follow these guide-lines to the best of his ability, each in his own way, he will be making a great contribution towards good citizenship. A good soldier is also a good citizen, and a disciplined Ex-serviceman is an exemplary citizen. Let us never forget this, and keep it always as our guiding light.

MAHARASHTRA EX-SERVICES CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY:

4. Through the earnest efforts of Naib Subedar G.T. MODAK, a Co-operative Society was started with the help of the IESL Maharashtra Branch and a Transport Service was inaugurated on 16th February, 1974 when Mr. Y.J. MOHITE, Minister for Co-operatives and Housing launched the first Tata Truck. The occasion was given press, radio and T.V. coverage. The President of the Co-operative Society Air Commodore J. B. DORDI and his able Committee consisting of Major S.B. MARATHE, Captain S. K. VANZARI, Nb/Sub G.T. MODAK, Shri G.L. RAJA, Shri S. RANGAN and Shri D.S. CHAVAN deserve great credit for this bold venture, which we hope will soon expand into a flourishing project.

SECURITY SERVICES:

5. Hitherto, many civilian security contractors were exploiting Ex-servicemen by engaging them on insecure terms, and poor salaries. The IESL Maharashtra Branch wrote to all such contractors setting out terms and conditions of employment which this Branch considers the minimum acceptable terms of employment for Ex-servicemen. Should any contractors agree, we will watch and check their service and if they comply with our terms, they will be accorded recognition by the Ex-Services League. Others will be brought to the notice of the Government for an enquiry into their working.

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Thus far, two Contractors have agreed to our terms, and we are checking their working.

NEW CENTRES

6. Last year a District Centre was opened at THANA, and Nb/Sub G.T. MODAK has been nominated to run this Centre with an elected committee.

7. It is hoped to open Centres at Wardha, Nagpur and Chandrapur, who have expressed interest. We hope Ex-servicemen from Poona, Ratnagiri, Sangli and other places will find the enthusiasm to start Centres.

DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN ASSISTED:

8. A number of Ex-Servicemen disabled in the 1965 war with Pakistan were housed in Laxmi Nagar, Pune. The League represented the case to the Government and information was recently received that the Government has arranged to allot the disabled persons in question, tenements under Economically Weaker Section Scheme, by giving them priority over the persons from 20% reserved quota.

POONA SCHEME:

9. We were glad to read in the "TIMES OF INDIA" of multi-service co-operative Society set up by Ex-service officers in Poona. The Society was formed in 1972 by retired Officers ranging from Captain to Major General and Officers' widows. Eleven retired officers and 115 men and their families have found employment in it. Their emoluments range from Rs.350/- to Rs.700/- a month. The Society paid nine percent dividend to members after its first year of operation.

10. The services organised by the Society include - providing transportation for office goers, arranging security and guard services, packing industrial goods, running canteens and repairing and maintaining radios, loud speakers, refrigerators and air conditioners. It also provides conservancy and sanitary services. This is in the highest traditions of self-help and the Poona Society is to be greatly commended. They should serve as an example to other retired service personnel.

RESETTLEMENT IN NICOBAR:

11. About 1500 families of the Ex-servicemen are proposed to be resettled on the NICOBAR ISLANDS during the fifth plan period. Ex-servicemen who are below 50 years of age with a land holding of not more than 5 acres in their home states are eligible for permanent resettlement on the islands. This scheme was started in 1969 and 31 familities have so far been resettled on the islands.

12. A batch of 50 Ex-servicemen out of 300 to be settled in the island left Madras on February 9, 1974. The second batch of 50 Ex-servicemen includes 40 Ex-servicemn from Maharashtra with 224 members of their families. The Maharashtra Batch left Poona for Madras on their way to the Nicobar Islands on February 16, 1974. The remaining 200 Ex-servicemen will be leaving in March.

DRAWING OF PENSION:

13. Retired Armed Forces Officers and their familities who do not draw their pensions for 12 months will be struck off the pension establishment, according to present rules. JCOs, ORs and their familities are struck off pension establishment if they do not draw their pension for three years.

VACATIONAL TRAINING:

14. SHRAMIK VIDYAPEETH, ADARSHA NAGAR, Worli, BOMBAY- 400 025, established by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in collaboration with the Bombay City Social Education Committee provides opportunity for many sided education and training for workers in industries, transport, hotels, restaurants, offices, homes and other organizations.

15. The training is imparted to the workers to make them under-stand their environment and prepare them for vocational and Technical training so as to improve their efficiency and increase the productive ability.

16. The institution conducts training courses of various durations for the prospective workers on the basis of specific requirements. Courses are conducted at places and timings convenient to the industries and workers. Some of the courses conducted by the SHRAMIK VIDYAPEETH BOMBAY are:-

a) 16 M.M. Projector operation training course.
b) Course in Scooter maintenance.
c) Course in Boiler Attending at Century Mills, Bombay.
d) Course in Supervisory skills at Golden Tobacco Co., Mazagon Docks.
e) Course in Bench Fitting and Sheet Metal Works at Khira Steel Works - Santacruz.
f) Course in Industrial Electricity at Hind Rectifiers Ltd., Bombay.

Ex-servicemen wishing to apply for such training, may contact our office.

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RATNAGIRI FORUM:

17. The above Forum imparts training to matriculates:

Projector Operation and Maintenance, Microphone Sound System, Ironing and Dhobi Work, Brick, Tile and other minor masonry work, Wood Polishing and Canteen preparations and maintenance.

The period is approximately 8-12 weeks.

Government pays a stipend of Rs.100/- to the trainees with the condition that they should start their own activity - proprietory, partnership or co-operative. No tuition fees are charged. Seed capital to the extent of Rs.5000/- is also given by the Government.

Ex-servicemen wishing to avail of the opportunity should please contact:

Shri D.S. MANCHEKAR,
11, Jiwaji Mansion,
190, Dr. B. Ambedkar Road, Bombay-400 014 (Phone: 441750)

COMMITTEE FOR 1974.

18. The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on 14th February, 1974. The Committee elected for 1974 is as follows:-

President	Brigadier	J.F.N.	VAKIL	(Retd.)
Vice-President	Air Comdre	J.B.	DORDI	"
Hony Secretary	Colonel	C.L.	PROUDFOOT	"
Member	Colonel	N.	BOSE	"
Member	Capt.	S.P.	SANGHI	"
Member	Capt.	DEEPAK	KUMAR	"
Member	Shri	G.T.	MODAK	
Hony Treasurer	Shri	S.	RANGAN	

MEMBERSHIP:

19. The Membership has risen from 383 to 603 at the end of 1973. Many members have responded to our appeal and the number of Life Members is now 8 Officers, 4 JCOs and 7 Other Ranks. Every effort should be made by members to persuade Ex-servicemen to join the League.

HELP RENDERED:

20. We are deeply indebted to the Army Officers' Wives Association and Jawans' Welfare Committee for the financial relief given to the League and we also intend to contact the Naval and the Air Force Officers' Wives Association for similar help through the respective Service Chiefs. The following help was rendered by the League to Ex-servicemen during the year:-

Job Interviews	..	260	Job Placement	..	89
Financial Help	..	14	Medical Help	..	3
Pension Cases	..	7	Miscellaneous Help	..	28

CONCLUSION:

21. On behalf of the Committee, we wish all Ex-servicemen a better 1974. Wherever you are, always remember that you are never

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alone, but part of the great family of comrades who served our Country shoulder to shoulder, regardless of the narrow boundaries of caste, religion and province, but as TRUE INDIANS. Now as civilians, let us continue to help one another, in the true spirit of comradeship.

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Yours sincerely,

Colonel C. L. PROUDFOOT (Retd)
Hon. Secretary
For Committee.

N O T I C E:

Members are requested to pay their Annual Subscription for the year 1974 by cheque/M.O. or personally in cash.

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